

are also some...I've also put some handouts on your desks that talk about the different lengths of sessions of the different states, so that will be some information you can look at while we debate this issue. I would urge the adoption of the committee amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Robinson. I understand we have an amendment to the committee amendments. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schimek would move to amend the committee amendments. (Schimek amendment, AM0622, may be found on page 951 of the 1995 Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on your amendment to the committee amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise to introduce this amendment which would basically limit the number of bills that could be introduced by each member to 12 bills. And I want to talk about it. I'm not sure that I'm going to actually run it, but I want to talk about it because I've had it in the back of my mind for a long time that if we wanted to do some of these kinds of things, like shorten the session, which incidentally I do support and I am a cosponsor of the bill, that I think that the public would be able to buy onto a more adequate salary increase for us as well. So, I guess I'd like to talk with you about the concept of including some other ideas on the constitutional amendment, if indeed this does advance. There are pros and cons to limiting the number of bills that a senator might introduce, because, as we all know, especially, I think, for committee chairs they are often asked to introduce a lot of bills for agencies and on their particular committee's subject matter. So often committee chairs particularly may introduce, during a session, 30 bills or so. But I do think that it would eliminate a lot of unnecessary bills, bills that are introduced simply because it's hard to say no to someone who asks that the bill be presented, even though you may not be that crazy about it, or even though it may not be that important in the scheme of things. There are also, of course, the arguments that if you limit the number of bills you're just going to get more Christmas tree bills, more amendments on bills, and that, of course, is probably a good possibility. But I just wanted to introduce this, hear some discussion on it, and particularly on the idea of maybe